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# The DAWN

FOUNDER: MR. M. A. JINNAH

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# MR. JINNAH WARNS BRITISH GOVERNMENT

## Declaration Against Pakistan To Be Resisted

### India: "A Constellation of Nations"

Mr. M. A. Jinnah in a statement to the *News-Chronicle*, London, says:

"I want the British public and statesmen to understand that the stand of the Muslim League is vitally different from that of the Congress and other Hindu organizations.

"It is somewhat difficult to understand the Congress as even in the recent pronouncements of front-line leaders such as Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Nehru and others they will have nothing to do with the prosecution of the war unless an immediate declaration of India's independence is made by the British Government, and as free Indians they will determine their war policy.

"When they talk of the freedom of India and the independence of India, they entirely ignore the hundred million Muslims in this country. That is the first and foremost mistake, and it is most misleading to say that the Congress represents the Indian nation.

"There is no such thing as an Indian nation in existence. India is a constellation of nations, and the two major nations are the Hindus and the Muslims.

"I see that another blitz of agitation is again being set on foot by Hindu leaders because of the growing stress of the expansion of the war to coerce the British Government to make a fresh move and go back on the declaration of August 8, which clearly laid down that not only the method and machinery to be set up to consider the future constitution of India should be by agreement of the major elements, but that the constitution itself, if it has to be worked successfully, must be framed by agreement of the major parties concerned as no future constitution can be forced against the will of one hundred million Muslims, for it will not survive the withdrawal of the British authority.

**The "Danger"**

"I see a great danger in the British Government being stampeded under pressure of recent developments of the war to make a new declaration according to the designs of the Hindu leaders. They, first of all, want that the time-limit should be fixed after the war at the end of which the British Government must give a solemn undertaking and promise to give India a constitution as a single unit on the basis of a united and democratic India of the Westminster variety.

"This will be cancelling the August declaration and going back on it. Secondly, it clearly means that the constitution will be framed by the British Government instead of by the major political parties as laid down in the August declaration. What will be the sanction behind it as it must be assumed that British power must be substantially or wholly withdrawn when a hundred million Muslims are opposed to it? and, lastly, the clear meaning of this demand by various schools of thought among Hindus, although the Congress is opposed to it, would mean, in other words, clearly denouncing and condemning the Muslim demand for the partition of India.

"This will not only be most unfair to Muslims but prejudging the consideration of the issue of the future constitution of India. And it will further clearly reduce the whole of Muslim India as an all-India minority under the heel of a Hindu Raj.

**Sacred Creed**

"Such a position Muslim India will never accept, and I want the British Government not to force Muslim India to fill Indian jails to convince them or to demonstrate that Pakistan is now our sacred creed, an article of faith, and any declaration by the British Government or Prime Minister which in any way will militate against it Muslim India will resist with all the power it can command.

"The next point which I wish to make clear again is that the difference between the Muslim League and the Congress is very vital as regards their respective attitude towards this war.

"From the very beginning the Muslim League has offered its hand of fullest cooperation to the British Government, provided a real share and voice in the authority and responsibility of the government at the Centre and in the provinces was given within the frame-work of the present constitution, without prejudice to the major issues involved with regard to the future constitution of India, whereas the Congress have definitely and repeatedly declined to look any proposal within the frame-work of the present constitution and prevailing law.

"They insist upon the major issues being settled immediately, ignoring the Muslims, and that too in a manner detrimental to the vital interests of the Muslims.

**Govt. Unwilling**

I have come to the conclusion that the British Government do not care or value sufficiently the cooperation and assistance of Muslims except as camp followers and they are waiting until they can persuade the Congress to come in or else they have no desire to part with any power in favour of those who fully realize the common peril of this war both to Great Britain and India and are thus willing provisionally to accept the position described by me above as a war contract.

"We clearly indicated this to the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government as far back as June, 1940, and offered our co-operation on that basis and advised them to go ahead with the Muslim League and such other parties as were willing to undertake the responsibility of the defence of our country and to intensify the war efforts in face of the imminent and common danger. But I am afraid no serious heed has been paid to it so far. It is for the British Government to decide how long they propose to wait until the Congress makes up its mind."—A.P.I.